



Media Relations Information for 10/01/2013

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No creature too insignificant for La Porte Police



LPPD Detective Jeff Kominek helps locate missing tortoise

During the final days of September, a La Porte resident advised police that his 25 year old African Sulcata tortoise had been stolen. The owner named a suspect who happened to live in the area and detectives were quick to pursue the potential kidnapper. Upon making contact with the suspect, investigators found both the tortoise, and a reasonable excuse for the suspect having the animal in his possession.

The scenario began when the tortoise escaped and a concerned resident spotted the animal walking around the La Porte neighborhood. With the tortoise being rare, the resident located the only person whom they believed could have been the owner. More interesting, the person who was contacted took possession of the turtle, but hadn't noticed that the tortoise was not their own. It was not until several hours had passed that the person taking possession of the tortoise noticed two, nearly identical, animals in the back yard of their residence.

Investigators advised that upon making contact with the resident in possession of the pair, they personally observed both animals and could not tell the difference between the two. Therefore, as there appeared to be no intent to kidnap the animal, detectives assisted both owners in taking possession of their respective tortoises. The owners agreed that the situation was an obvious misunderstanding due to the close similarity of the species.